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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,974	10/28/2003	Toshinari Kobayashi	033995-002	3676

21839 7590 04/07/2006

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EXAMINER

SNIDER, THERESA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1744

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CM

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/693,974	Applicant(s) KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Theresa T. Snider	Art Unit 1744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,9 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/28/03, 4/22/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Exemplary of such:

Page 1, line 21, 'as' should be deleted.

Page 10, line 10, 'passes' should be replaced with 'pass'.

Page 11, line 17, 'of'(second occurrence) should be deleted;

Line 21, 'the'(first occurrence) should be deleted;

Line 24, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'a raising cloth'.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Exemplary of such:

Claims 3-4, line 2 and claims 5-6, line 1, it is unclear as to what constitutes 'soft'.

Claims 7-8, line 2, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'a raising cloth'.

Claim 12, line 2, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'the own weight'.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Platt.

Platt discloses a suction opening formed on a bottom face of a main body casing (col. 2, lines 67-68).

Platt discloses a cover defining a front wall of the casing (fig. 1, #12,19).

Platt discloses an abutting member projecting from a front face of the cover and functioning as a bumper, where the cover rotates open when the member contacts a wall (figs. 3-4, #23,19).

With respect to claim 10, Platt discloses a rotary brush having bristles that project forward (fig. 3, #15).

With respect to claim 12, Platt discloses the cover constructed to close under it's own weight (figs. 3-4, #19,20).

6. Claims 1, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP2002-512.

JP2002-512 discloses a suction opening formed on a bottom face of a main body casing (fig. 1, #44).

JP2002-512 discloses a cover defining a front wall of the casing (fig. 1, #22,45).

JP2002-512 discloses an abutting member projecting from a front face of the cover and functioning as a bumper, where the cover rotates open when the member contacts a wall (figs. 1,7, #49, abstract).

With respect to claim 10, JP2002-512 discloses a rotary brush having bristles that project forward (fig. 6, #30).

With respect to claim 12, JP2002-512 discloses the cover constructed to close under it's own weight (figs. 1,7).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2, 9 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

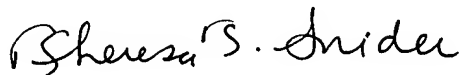
Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Burgoon et al. and Vanderlinden disclose nozzles with movable front walls. Lessig, III et al. discloses a floor suction tool whose front wall rotates open when it encounters a wall and is received the casing of the tool.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa T. Snider whose telephone number is (571) 272-1277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran can be reached on (571) 272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Theresa T. Snider
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

3/31/2006